AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended) In a programmed computer, a method for dynamically selecting a set of candidates over a distributed computer network for inclusion in a market research group, comprising, the steps of:

(a) acquiring market research data on potential candidates, the potential candidates connecting to the programmed computer across the distributed computer network;

(b) providing the potential candidates with an audio/video capture mechanism that is connectable to a machine that permits two-way communication across the distributed computer network and capturing audiovisual two way communications between and among the potential candidates and between and among the potential candidates and the programmed computer;

(b) evaluating (c) evaluating the acquired market research and audiovisual communication data against a template;

(c) selecting (d) selecting a set of candidates in response to the evaluating step, the set of candidates being fewer than the set of potential candidates and being selected to fit the template in accordance with a predefined preference;

(d) permitting (e) permitting additional market research and audiovisual communication data from additional potential candidates to be acquired across the distributed computer network; and

(e) repeating steps (b) through (d) (f) repeating steps (c) through (e), so that the permitting step acquires market research data until a time certain, the evaluating step evaluates the market research data at one or more given times which occur before the time certain, and the selecting step dynamically selects the set of candidates so as to fit the predefined preference at each given time and optimally fit the predefined preference at the time certain.

Claim 2. (canceled)

Claim 3. (currently amended) The method as in claim 2 claim 1, wherein the acquired market research data includes an image of the potential candidate.

Claim 4. (currently amended) The method as in claim 3, including, the additional step of conducting a market research study over the distributed computer network with ~~the set~~ a set of participants, the set of participants comprising a first portion of a set of candidates.

Claim 5. (original) The method as in claim 4, including, the additional steps of: paying each participant a first sum for participating in the market research study; and, paying a non-overlapping remainder portion of the set of candidates a second sum which is less than the first sum.

Claim 6. (original) The method as in claim 5, including, the additional steps of: acquiring an image of each participant during the course of the conducted market research study; comparing each participant image to the potential candidate image acquired with the market research data; wherein the step of paying each participant comprises paying each participant for which the comparing step results in a match.

Claim 7. (original) The method as in claim 4, including, the additional conducting step of: displaying a stimulus to the participants across the distributed computer network; and, receiving participant response to the stimulus across the distributed computer network.

Claim 8. (previously presented) The method as in claim 6, wherein the comparing step is performed throughout the market research study to verify participant presence.

Claim 9. (original) The method as in claim 8, including, the additional step of: paying each verified participant a first sum for participating in the market research study and paying a non-overlapping remainder portion of the set of candidates a second sum which is less than the first sum.

Claim 10. (original) The method as in claim 7, including, the additional step of officiating a follow-up interview with a participant, wherein the moderator displays additional stimulus and receives additional participant response in response to the additional stimulus.

Claim 11. (original) A method as in claim 1 which further comprises the additional step of disseminating information between the set of candidates and a client at the given time.

Claim 12. (currently amended) A method for conducting a market research study from a host machine over a distributed computer network, comprising, the steps of:

Selecting a set of candidates to participate in a market research study, the set of candidates being fewer than all candidates and being selected so as to fit a predefined preference of a template at each of one or more given times and being selected so as to optimally fit the predefined preference at a time certain which occurs after the given times;

inviting the set of candidates to the market research study conducted during a predetermined time interval and conducted over a distributed computer network, wherein the

candidates access the host <u>and/or each other</u> using a respective user machine interface having an audio/video ~~captive~~ <u>two-way communication</u> mechanism connected thereto;

initiating <u>two-way</u> audio/video communication between <u>and among</u> the host ~~and~~ <u>and/or</u> the user machines with at least a set of participants comprising a first portion of a set of candidates, during the predetermined time interval in substantially real time;

exhibiting a stimulus to the participants; and

accumulating participant responses to the stimulus over the distributed network at the host.

Claim 13. (original) The method of conducting a market research study as in claim 12, including, the additional step of verifying a presence each participant throughout the market research study.

Claim 14. (original) The method of conducting a market research study as in claim 13, including, 2 the additional step of paying the verified participants a first sum for participating in the market research study and paying a non-overlapping remainder portion of the set of candidates a second sum which is less than the first sum.

Claim 15. (original) The method of conducting a market research study as in claim 12, including, the additional step of officiating a follow-up interview with a particular participant subset.

Claim 16. (original) The method of conducting a market research study as in claim 12, including, the additional step of selecting groups of participants for a predetermined stimulus, wherein the predetermined stimulus is unique to the participant group.

Claim 17. (original) The method of conducting a market research study as in claim 12, including, the additional step of dynamically selecting a particular stimulus in response to prior participant responses.

Claim 18. (original) The method of conducting a market research study as in claim 12, including, the additional step of tabulating results of the market research study.

Claim 19. (canceled)

Claim 20. (canceled)

Claim 21. (currently amended) A system for conducting a market research study over a distributed computer network, comprising:

A processor configured to select users to participate in a market research study at a given time in accordance with a predefined preference stored in a template an which at a time certain selects users in accordance with a best fit of the predefined preference to ensure an optimal set of users;

a moderator device having distributed computer network access, an audio/video ~~recording~~ two-way communication mechanism, and an input mechanism wherein moderators submit stimulus to, and conduct two-way audiovisual communications with, users across the distributed computer network;

a user device having distributed computer network access, an audio/video ~~recording~~ two-way communication mechanism, and an input mechanism wherein users submit market research responses in response to the moderator's submitted stimulus and conduct two-way audiovisual communications with the moderator and other users; and

a host machine communicating over the distributed computer network and having a database accumulating user responses to the moderator's submitted stimulus and to the audiovisual communications with the moderator and other users, a storage medium accumulating recordings of the audiovisual communications between and among the moderator and other users, a processor evaluating user responses, and an engine outputting market research results.

Claim 22. (currently amended) The system as in claim 21, further comprising, a sponsoring client device having distributed computer network access wherein a sponsoring client accessing the market research study at a given time observes the submitted moderator ~~stimuli and~~ stimuli, the submitted user responses, and audio/video two-way communications between and among one or more users and the moderator.

Claim 23. (canceled)

Claim 24. (currently amended) The system as in claim 21, wherein a user working from the user device further observes ~~a self-image~~ an audiovisual image of the user.

Claim 25. (currently amended) The system as in claim 21, wherein a user working from the user device further ~~observes a set of participant images~~ conducts two-way audiovisual communications with one or more other users.

Claim 26. (original) The system as in claim 21, wherein the user working from the user device further observes a set of submitted participant responses.

Claims 27-31 (canceled)